

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This case has been carefully reviewed and analyzed, and reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully requested.

ELECTION/RESTRICTION

Claims 12-16 have been withdrawn from the pending application.

SPECIFICATION OBJECTION

The disclosure was originally objected to because of some informalities.

Responsive to this, the specification is corrected in accordance with the Examiner's instruction and suggestion, and it is believed that the objection should be removed.

DRAWING OBJECTION

The figure 9 of the drawings was originally objected to because of some informalities.

Responsive to this, Figure 9 is corrected in accordance with the Examiner's instruction and it is believed that the objection should be removed.

CLAIM OBJECTION

Claims 1 and 7 were originally objected to because of some informalities.

Responsive to this, claim 1 is amended according to the Examiner's instruction and suggestion. In addition, claim 7 has been deleted. Therefore, it is believed that the objections should be removed.

CLAIM REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 1-8 were originally rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Watson (3,020,017) in view of Tsurumoto (3,503,430).

In addition, claim 9 was originally rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Watson in view of Cohen (5,664,750).

However, the Examiner has pointed out that claims 10 and 11 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Responsive to this, claims 7, 9 and 10 are deleted, and claim 1 is amended which is substantially the combination of original claims 1, 7, 9 and 10 so as to make the claimed invention more distinguishably patentable over the prior art references cited by the Examiner.

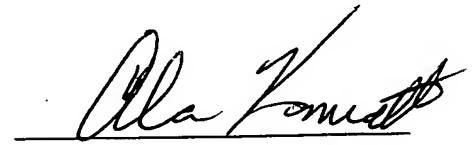
In addition, claim 11 is amended to form an independent claim which is substantially the combination of original claims 1, 7 and 11 so as to make the claimed invention more distinguishably patentable over the prior art references cited by the Examiner.

Accordingly, by the amendments, it is believed that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) should be withdrawn, and the claims 1-6, 8 and 11 should be allowable.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that the application is now in a condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. If any points remain in issue, which the Examiner feels could best be

resolved by either a personal or a telephone interview, he is urged to contact Applicant's attorney at the exchange listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan Kamrath", is written over a horizontal line.

by Alan D. Kamrath

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AMENDMENT TO THE DRAWINGS

Replacement sheet of drawings are enclosed for the Examiner's approval. The attached sheet of drawing includes change to Fig. 9. This sheet replaces the original sheet including Fig. 9. In figure 9, the element 21 has been deleted.

In addition, a marked-up copy (with annotations) of the amended figure 9 is also enclosed for the Examiner's approval.

Attachment:

Replacement Sheet

Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

Annotated sheet showing Changes

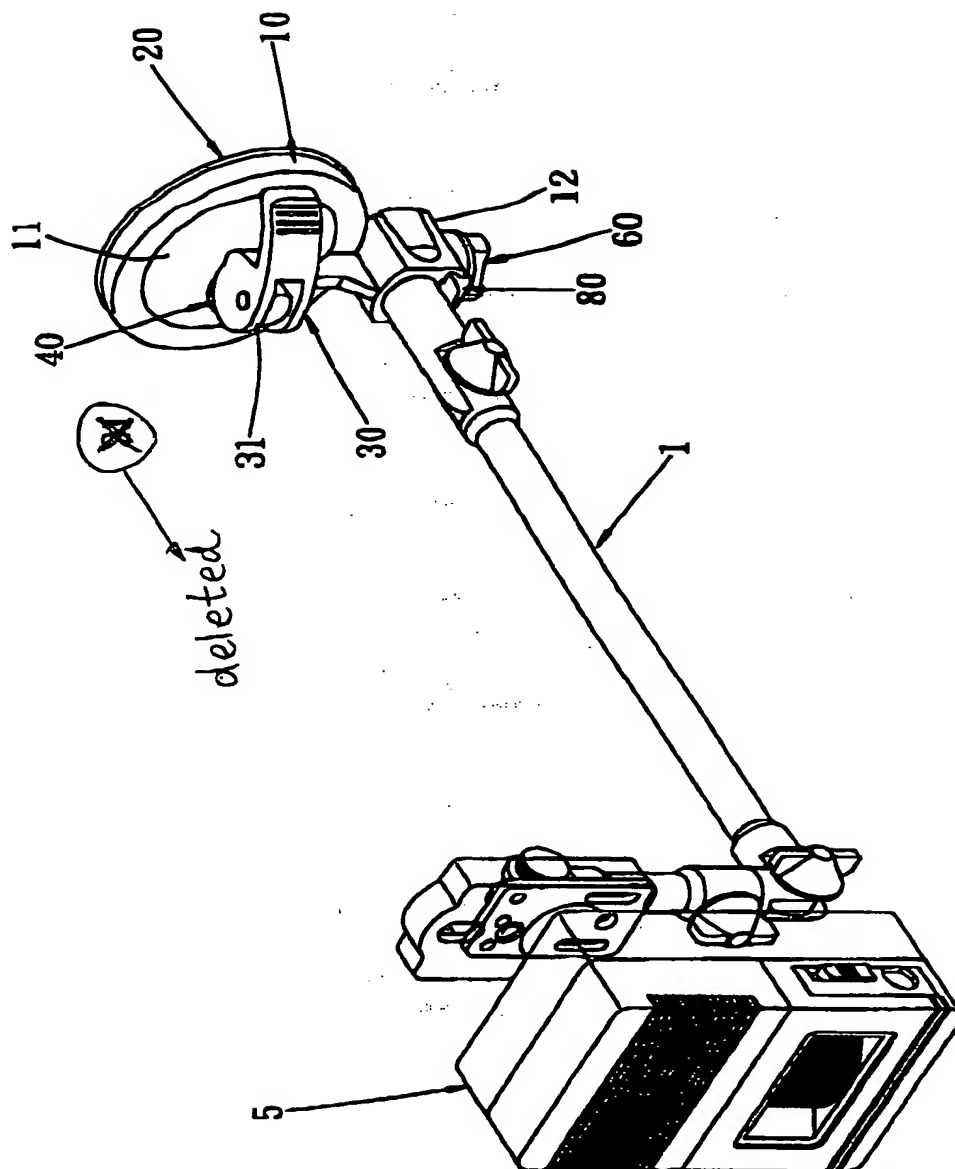


FIG. 9